4/28/70

Dear Mary,

We had your breezy card today, envied you, but are glad one of those of us who live which such unpleasantness could get a diversion, not matter how brief in duration.

I also have a letter from Gary on other matters, but with an ellipsis that xxx prompts this letter. I suppose one of the first things you learned about me is that I can be blunt, often seemingly diplomatic, but that I also have a point or reason and that I try to get to the point.

What follows is presumption, from reading between the lines. It may be wrong. I encourage you to find out.

From my own experiences, with him and another like him and with the eminences, I have come to have a greater regard for Gary's professional competence than I otherwise would ever have had occasion to hold.

I think two things: he is concerned about Jimmy's treatment and feels constrained to silence because of professional requirements. Whether or not these are archaic requirements, the professions live by them, often to the detriment of patients.

Therefore, I take a great liberty. I suggest <u>you</u> phone Gary. I think if you ask him rather than his offering unsolicited advice, the situation will be different and he may be relieved of obligations he may not be able to shun. Were I in your position, I'd ask, after detailing the treatment and medication, what is thought of both, from his knowledge of the field, what sources he could cite, and whether he knows dependable experts in your area you could consult about this.

My own experience is with animals, not humans. I did my own experimental work with chickens, developed new concepts and made them work. I did work for several of the larger drug houses they could not do for themselves. In the work I also learned that I could do simply fantastic things to chickens but that all of a sudden, boom! Then the consequences were terrible. I was able to increase their rate of growth beyond conception, things like that, but with some of the programs they also suddenly went to pieces, beyond repair...We have tahlidimide, the pill, a large assortment of other drugs and treatments that were initially highly touted but ultimately were established as hazardous or worse....If you remember the case of the unnamed man in COUP, the one who wanted to kill Garrison, in my own mind I am pretty confident the marked deterioration in his condition was from treatment, not from the pre-existing brain damage....Your own doctors will not welcome what I suggest, but do you want to take any chance?...In my own case, several times I've had to raise hell about treatment at my medical coop. Both of two cases that come immediately to mind I was right and their own doctors proved the treating doctors wrong. Once a staffer who was also professor of orthopaedic medicine at George Washington was treating me for tennis elbow when I had adhesions in the shoulders (I'd never heard of this, but I sure as hell knew there was deterioration under the treatment). Now, with the blacking out, while I'm not at all satisfied they've done everything, they immediately acknowledged they'd not done enough. What they have done since my complaint is part of what Gary told me was minimal and <u>nothing</u> he didn't mention.

Think of the real experts whose work we've been studying. Do you need more to encourage you to take no chances?

Our hopes for the best to you all. Sincerely,